



FONDACIONI KOSOVAR PER SHOOËRI CIVILE
KOSOVAR CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

How is COVID-19 affecting CSOs in Kosovo

The preliminary findings

Prishtina, April 2020

KEY FINDINGS – CSOs

Immediate Impact of COVID-19 on CSOs Finances and Operations

COVID-19 has had an impact on the daily work of almost all active CSOs (96.71%)

Majority of CSOs work remotely (60%) or closed down their offices (20%)

COVID-19 seriously endangers the continuity of the work of the organization (62.5%)

- #Due to the inability to retain staff if this situation continues
- #Due to cancellation/lack of new opportunities to apply for funding

Cut or temporarily suspend their staff (30%) or decreased number of volunteers (38%)

CSO initiatives during COVID-19 pandemic

Most of CSOs cancelled their daily operations, but vast majority are willing to respond to COVID-19 (81%)

Many CSOs have already responded to COVID-19

- #Preventive safety measures for their staff
- #“Stay at home” and “Social distancing” awareness raising campaigns
- #Distribution of basic hygiene kits for marginalized groups
- #Assisting local governments on identifying and distributing food packages for persons in need
- # Providing online free counselling services
- #Monitoring government decisions on COVID19, including decisions for financial support, freedom of movement, human rights, freedom of association etc.
- #Monitoring righteous and ethical online and other media reporting on COVID19

CSOs and the Government

CSOs are generally satisfied with clarity and communication of Government decisions on COVID-19 (42% satisfied, 42% somehow satisfied)

One third of CSOs will apply for financial assistance provided under the Emergency Fiscal Package of the Government (32%)

KEY FINDINGS – Donor organizations

Increased flexibility on implementation modalities from majority of donors

INTRO AND DEMOGRAPHICS

A preliminary overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the work of CSOs in Kosova.

During the second half of April:

Online survey with active CSOs (152 CSO respondents, from all backgrounds)

Interviews with donor organizations

Interviews with public institutions

Follow-up (April-May):

Consultations with donor organizations and public institutions

Focus group discussions with CSO representatives

An updated and final research report & actions to be taken

#Most donors are flexible on reporting deadlines for CSOs, including provision of no-cost extensions, although few donors without affirmative actions on reporting deadlines

#Recently awarded CSOs asked to adapt activities into a digital format, within original goals

Many funding opportunities for CSOs are paused or postponed from donors until further notice

No termination of CSO contracts from donors due to COVID-19

Some donor organizations adjusted their work modalities to provide additional support for CSO response to COVID-19

MAIN CHALLENGES

CSOs sustainability is threatened in post-emergency phase (after 3-6 months)

Urgent need to re-plan their work for being relevant to their target groups

Lack of flexible and operational grants for CSOs to allow smooth adaptation to contextual changes

Paused or postponed funding opportunities seriously impacted the work of many CSOs

Service provision CSOs have experienced almost an absolute shortage of income

Lack of infrastructure for CSOs and their target groups (especially marginalized groups) to quickly shift to remote work

Provision of services to marginalized groups due to increase of demand hampered from limited funding

Reluctance of CSOs to work with their target groups even after COVID-19

#Inability of CSOs to afford protective sanitary and hygienic kits for its staff to continue work during ongoing COVID-19 outbreak

#Most of CSO activities/services for target groups require physical presence

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

COVID19 is going to be a long and sustained battle. Winning it, among others will require the response to be at the level of the community. CSOs are the closest to the community, especially with regard to marginalized groups. Thus CSOs need to get themselves well-prepared right now so as to be able to respond to the emerging needs in the post-COVID19 phase.

To enable this, a number of important actions need to be taken:

The Government should consider a multi-stakeholder approach in the battle with COVID-19 pandemic

#bring together CSOs, businesses, media, international donor organizations, and other relevant stakeholders

Donors and the Government should provide flexible operational support to CSOs, to enable CSOs to survive the post-COVID19 phase and adapt their programs to respond to the crisis and recovery needs

adjust CSO support instruments from donors
shift from ad-hoc project funding to flexible operational support, within the standard amount of state funds for CSOs

Donors and Government should continue their support to civil society while adapting to emerging needs, to enable CSOs' activity and survival

#not delay or cancel funding opportunities for CSOs

Donors and Government should support provision of public services from CSOs

#increase the support for social, health, other public benefit activities aiming to provide services to citizens in general, and marginalized groups specifically

Government should maintain human right standards while saving lives of citizens'

#ensure that COVID-19 measures are in line with international standards on human rights, including freedom to association and freedom of assembly

The Government should ensure that CSOs who serve vulnerable groups and those most in need are in the focus of Emergency Fiscal Package

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